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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Gabon*: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995 and 51/46 C of 10 December 1996,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the

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* On behalf of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

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protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, particularly those of the developing countries,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[1]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[2] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 51/46 C;

2. Reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. Also reaffirms its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. Invites the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Non-Aggression Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification, being convinced that the entry into force of the Pact will effectively contribute to the prevention of conflicts in the Central African subregion;

5. Welcomes with satisfaction the programmes and activities of the Standing Advisory Committee for the period 1997-1998, adopted by the member States during the ninth ministerial meeting held at Libreville from 7 to 11 July 1997,[3] which are designed to:

(a) Set up and render operational at the earliest opportunity and on the basis of voluntary contributions an early-warning system for Central Africa;

(b) Launch programmes designed to retrain demobilized soldiers and prepare them for reintegration into civilian life;

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[1] A/50/474, annex I.

[2] A/52/293.

[3] A/52/[illegible]3-S/1997/644, annex.

(c) Combat the illegal circulation of weapons and drugs in the subregion;

(d) Organize training seminars in order to strengthen the capacity of the Central African States to participate more actively in peacekeeping operations organized under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

(e) Organize joint military exercises to simulate the conduct of standard peacekeeping operations;

(f) Organize, for members of the armed forces and security forces of the Central African States, seminars and awareness programmes relating to the conduct of public affairs, the rule of law and respect for human rights;

(g) Hold a subregional conference on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

(h) Revert to the holding of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee at the ministerial level in order to further consultations among the member States;

6. Expresses its conviction that the full implementation of these measures and activities will contribute to the promotion of confidence among the member States, the establishment of democracy and good governance and the consolidation of peace in the Central African subregion;

7. Welcomes the participation, at the invitation of the Government of Gabon, of representatives of the States permanent members of the Security Council in the ninth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee and invites the Secretary-General to facilitate the pursuit of this type of dialogue, which is likely to strengthen cooperation between the Council and the countries concerned with a view to contributing to the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Central Africa, whenever the States members of the Committee so request;

8. Thanks the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

9. Appeals to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraph 5 of the present resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts, being convinced that effective cooperation between the international community and the countries of the subregion can stimulate the search for peaceful solutions to the crises and conflicts that occur in the subregion;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".